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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Åland Islands Peace Institute

(Special; 2004)

PART I Introduction

i. The purpose of the organization and its main courses of action

The Åland Islands Peace Institute conducts projects and research into peace and conflict issues in a broadly defined sense from the vantage-point of Åland and the special status that Åland enjoys under international law. It focuses on autonomy in various forms, minority-related issues, demilitarisation and conflict management. The Peace Institute's researchers and guest researchers focus on three broad subject areas: Security, minorities and autonomy, including the "Åland Example" (i.e. The Åland Islands as an autonomous, demilitarized, neutralized and monolingually Swedish region of Finland).

The Institute regularly publishes books and reports in these areas. By arranging seminars and conferences and through a growing library that is open to the public, the Institute serves as a meeting-point for Åland, the Nordic countries and the Baltic Sea region.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute arranges courses and seminar series in Åland and internationally, aimed at researchers, politicians, journalists, the broad public and groups from conflict-ridden regions around the world in the following areas: Conflict management and non-violence, global and regional security, democracy and human rights, autonomies, minorities and trafficking prevention.
The Institute runs a project called Educating for Peace in Åland's schools. The aim is to introduce knowledge and experience about conflict management, non-violence, tolerance and school mediation in local schools.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute has built a well-functioning network of non-governmental organisations in Lithuania, Belarus and the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. This co-operation is based on the experiences gained and methods developed at the Nendre Centre for Women and Children in Vilnius, the Capital of Lithuania. The Centre offers social services to single mothers and their children. The Åland Islands Peace Institute participates in international youth work, sends out and receives volunteers and arranges seminars, courses and other activities aimed at promoting dialogue and knowledge about the living conditions of other people. The Åland Conciliation Office is run by the Åland Islands Peace Institute on behalf of the County Administration in Åland. The Conciliation Office offers conciliation in accordance with the Finnish Act on Conciliation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases. The Åland Islands Peace Institute has a limited field of activities and focuses primarily on ethnic conflicts, women's rights and disarmament. The activities related to the United Nations has been concentrated to these areas in view of the limited resources. However the Institute is currently considering the possibilities of engaging a representative based in Geneva. Discussions with a person already linked to the Peace Institute are being held. This would facilitate the possibilities to attend and participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

ii) Change that has had a significant impact on the orientation of the organization.

During 2007 the Åland Islands Peace Institute changed its organization, in order to focus more on research, strengthen its international presence, including within the United Nations, and to link its practical actions more to above mentioned research. A director, who is a researcher and holds a doctoral degree in International Law, has been engaged in order to enhance capacity and to provide additional outcomes in the areas of the Institute's competence. The Institute's website is the main source of communication. On the website the research reports that the institute has initiated can be downloaded, as well as its books, for example "Right of domicile in Åland", which is right now being translated into English.

PART II Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women, Forty-ninth session, 28 February-11 March 2005, New York. The chairman of the board and a consultant from The Åland Islands Peace Institute participated and submitted a statement on the Institute's work with empowerment projects with young women in Lithuania, aimed at enhancing gender equality and preventing sexual slavery.

The Geneva representative of the Åland Islands Peace Institute attended the following meetings at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, in 2005: Commission on Human Rights, 61st session, 14 March-22 April 2005, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 66th session, 21 February-11 March 2005, Committee on the Rights of the Child, 39th session, 17 May-3 June 2005. The representative also attended several side events, reported to the Institute from the sessions, and otherwise worked mainly within the NGO network. The Åland Islands Peace Institute is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and thereby has continuous access to and profits from the possibilities of exchange of information with other NGOs related to the United Nations. During 2005 the Institute's Geneva representative participated in several meetings organized by CONGO.

Human Rights Council, Fourth session, 12-30 March 2007, United Nations Headquarters, Geneva. The Åland Islands Peace Institute submitted a written statement stressing the importance of objectivity, continuity and rapidity in the work of the Human Rights Council.

Open ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16-27 July 2007, United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, was attended by a representative of the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

The New United Nations Human Rights Council – Challenges and Questions, 1 February 2007, Stockholm, Sweden. Seminar arranged by the Åland Islands Peace Institute, Amnesty, United Nations Association of Sweden, UNA of Sweden the Stockholm chapter, the Church of Sweden and the Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights. The Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute moderated this event.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

Rhodri Williams, JD (Doctor Juris), worked at the Åland Islands Peace Institute in the period 2006-2008 as a guest researcher. Rhodri Williams' main activity was the drafting of a Manual on implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, a project carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Professor Walter Kälin, and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. Through his time at the Åland Islands Peace Institute, Rhodri Williams has enriched domestic understanding in Åland, Finland and the Nordic countries on issues of internal displacement, return of refugees and displaced persons and property restitution, while drawing upon the Peace Institute's contacts and expertise in discussions and seminars.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women: The Nendre Centre for Women and Children in Vilnius was established in 1998 by the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Devyndarbe Women's Club. Today the Centre offers social services to about 45 single mothers, 25 children 3-6 years old and about 18 children 7-18 years old a year. It provides support to the mothers, day care for small children and afternoon activities for schoolchildren. Nendre has become recognized as one of the leading organisations in the field of gender equality education and promotion in Lithuania.

Since 2005 Nendre shared its experience with organisations in Belarus and the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. With the goal of giving marginalised groups the strength to manage their problems and take control of their own lives, Project initiatives included training, counselling and development activities for women and children.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute also helped to spread the "girls' group" method in Lithuania. This method, originally developed in the Nordic countries and adapted to local conditions, helps to strengthen young girls' self-awareness and prevent trafficking, in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women and related principles.

Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability: Target 4: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

During 2007 representatives from the Institute participated in meetings on water and rights arranged by the Swedish Water House, Stockholm. The Institute has provided knowledge and otherwise supported preparations for World Water Week in Stockholm 2008.

2. Cooperazione Internazionale

(Special; 2004)

Part I. Introduction

i. The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Our Mission: Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) seeks to contribute through the dedication, motivation, determination, and professionalism of its human resources to helping countries in the southern hemisphere in achieving a harmonious and integral development of their communities. We remain in fully aware that through mutual convergence and collaboration among peoples we can concretely pursue the ideals of equality and justice, progress and coherence in order to obtain better equilibrium between the North and the South, developed and depressed areas or areas currently under development.

Our operating principles: Solidarity and Neutrality: alongside the most desperate and disadvantaged peoples we commit ourselves to fighting the unbalanced state of affairs and poverty, and promoting and sustaining the effective application of human rights foreseen by international treaties, while remaining equidistant from political parties and religious beliefs. Partnership and Participation: working together with institutions, communities, associations, and local organizations to single out and come up with the right solutions for problems. Respect and War against discrimination: we believe in bringing out the best in cultures and their differences as a key to progress and opposing all forms of discrimination and exclusion. Effectiveness and Innovation: we strive toward constantly improving our competencies and the results of our work, refining methods, and operating strategies and intensifying our innovative approaches, which are based on rights, rather than need. Responsibility and Transparency: we account for our actions to whoever sponsors our activities and we involve the communities and institutions with which we work in the choice of the project, guaranteeing information and readiness to listen.

ii. Any changes that may have had a significant impact on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of its orientation, its programme, the scope of its work.

a) The Members' Assembly amended some Charter's articles. The main modification was the insertion of a new responsibility for the Vice President, who has the functions and the powers that the President, the General Council and the Board of Directors may decide to give him. The Vice Presidential terms of reference were incompatible with other operations assignments in the organizational structure. This new function may enable us to have better participation in events, meeting and sessions related to cooperation and humanitarian aid, so as to contribute to United Nations work. The new approved Charter is available upon request.

b) COOPI has partnership and affiliation with other organizations, networks, structures, etc. working in the field of development and humanitarian aid. We joined: the United Nations Department

of Public Information (DPI) - in December 2004; the ITALIA AIUTA Emergency Committee www.italiaiuta.org; AGIMONDO www.ong.agimondo.it; LINK 2007.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

COOPI participated in the 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (26 February – 9 March 2007), United Nations Headquarters, New York. COOPI did not participate in other activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of programmes and in social awareness campaign in Italy and with governmental and local organizations and authorities abroad in Central America, South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia.

ii) Cooperation with the United Nations, Member States and/or specialized agencies in the field and/ or Headquarters

We list below only the most important humanitarian activities or operational projects developed from 2004 through 2007 in cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies. The full list is available upon request.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Central African Republic "Support for Congolese refugees in the Central African Republic"; in Chad "Assistance to Central African Refugees present in southern Chad"; Somaliland "Reactivation and Management of the Annalena Tonelli Tuberculosis (TB) Center in Boroma" .

World Health Organization, World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Ecuador "Integration of refugees present in Ecuador". **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF): Democratic Republic of the Congo "Emergency Hygiene-Healthcare Project in the territory of Moba"; "Emergency support to the population afflicted by war through nutritional aid programs (Lubutu and Maniema)"; Chad "Integrated prevention project and care for diseases related to the malnutrition of the population present in Gouroukoun, Sanour, Koubigou and Koukou/Habile"; Somalia "Water and Sanitation in Juba Valley"; "Control of HIV diffusion in Somalia"; Central African Republic "Emergency Program, educating displaced children in the sub-prefecture of Paoua"; Sierra Leone "Community support and assistance for women who were kidnapped and victims of violence"; Malawi "HIV/AIDS: Awareness campaign, Healthcare support services in district of Kasungu"; Uganda "Emergency intervention for the rural population in the Lira Pader and Apac districts";

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Guatemala "Integrated support in the Department of Hueuetenango"; Democratic Republic of the Congo "Rehabilitation of Schools in the

Ituri District"; "Emergency support program for the reinsertion of street children in Bunia"; Malawi "Integrated training Program in the district of Kasungu".

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

COOPI contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in: Central and South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Major actions undertaken during the reporting period were the following:

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Target 2. Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger ACTIONS: 21 projects feeding or giving nutritional care: 568,882 direct beneficiaries.

Goal 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education: Target 3. Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. ACTIONS: Number of children guaranteed access to education =3,500 children; Number of Schools assisted through buildings rehabilitation and/or provision of teaching materials and/or training= 7.

Goal 4 Reduce Child Mortality: Target 5: Reduce the under five mortality rates. ACTIONS: Number of beneficiaries of specific medical assistance to children living in emergency situations (civil war, natural disasters) = 62,827.

Goal 5 Improve Maternal Health: Target 6: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio. ACTIONS: Number of projects working specifically or having a specific component on maternal health sector=13; Number of targeted beneficiaries =565,337.

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability: Target 10. Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. ACTIONS: Projects specifically working on water and sanitation=10; Number of targeted beneficiaries =1,070,532.

3. Development Promotion Group

(Special; 2000)

I. Introduction

Founded in 1986, Development Promotion Group (DPG) supports social development among women, children and neglected minorities in South India. The aim is to eradicate poverty by empowering the disadvantaged with the tools to lift themselves. More information can be found on the website www.dpgsulo.com or from our audited annual reports.

Strategy: DPG's operational strategy emphasizes the formation of micro level institutions to implement sustainable development projects, working with local communities, other NGOs and the government in a participatory manner. DPG is estimated to have reached over 70,000 households.

Change: Although the group vision has remained consistent, DPG continues to expand its work to provide micro credit access to the poor. In 2003, the Micro Finance Development India Initiatives (MFDII) was established (website: www.mfdii.com). From 2004-07, this fund has lent Rs.7,202,500 (US$184,384) to the poor, mostly for small businesses. In 2004, after the Tsunami, we shifted a lot of resources to rehabilitate families in the Nagapattinam and Tuticorin districts. Through this project, we built shelters for 822 families, and rehabilitated the livelihood of 1,569 families. The Tsunami Rehabilitation work is scheduled to be completed by 2009.

During the period from 2004-2007, DPG received financial assistance from the United Nations: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) contributed Rs.299,021 towards DPG's Tsunami-related activities in 2005.

II. Contributions of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

(i) During the period from 2004-2007, DPG participated in the following meetings "Building UN-NGO Partnership for Democratic Governance through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

The Second Asian Civil Society Forum 21st-25th Nov, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand: The Chief Executive Officer of DPG attended the forum, convened by the Conference of NGOs in Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and in partnership with Forum Asia.

DPG has participated in a limited number of these events, as our efforts and funding are primarily project-based. Our work continues to be on the grassroots level and heavily involved with the Tsunami. However, we hope that when the opportunity arises, we can contribute to more of these events.

III Initiatives in support of United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. (MDGs): During the reporting period the initiatives were carried out in 18 different States in India, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Total targeted beneficiaries= 63,974 families living in 480 villages.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. (i) 32000 families were helped to come out of poverty; (ii) 2825 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were formed; (iii)Rs.107 millions in savings were made; (iv) Internal loans totalling Rs. 386 millions were granted; (v) External loans totalling Rs. 178.26 millions were granted through bank linkages and Micro Finance Development Initiatives of India (MFDII), a sister-concern of DPG; (vi) .Livelihood assistance for 750 families in the Tsunami affected families; (vii) Distributed 132 fibreglass boats costing Rs.5.8 million, 144 marine engines costing Rs.6.3 million, 17276 kgs & 34 sets of nets for Rs.5.9 million.

Goal 2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education: Achieved 100% school enrolment up to primary schooling; (i)Increase in the school enrolment to 94%; (ii) 5% of the family income is spent on

children's education; (iii) Distribution of educational materials to 9050 school children between the age of 5 – 14; (iv) Helped the Government in the renovation of school buildings (5), library (5) and play grounds (10); (v) Helped the Government to provide free bus pass, midday meals to 845 children; (vi) Provision of scholarship to 75 Most Backward Caste and Scheduled Caste students; (vii) Vocational training to 250 students.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: Attained 60% gender equality ; (i) Equal wages and equal employment opportunities under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) to 750 women; (ii) 340 members stood in the local Panchayat elections and 145 women got elected: (iii) Girl Children were sent to school, at least up to primary class – 95%; (iv) Increased participation of women in the SHG meetings – 75%; (iv) Enabled the Government to provide house pattas in the name of both wife and husband for 604 families; (v) Individual Growth Program (IGP) activities – Nearly 65%were involved in petty jobs like sheep rearing, vegetable vending, petty shops, dairy development for additional income; (vi) Decision making of women – 50%; (vii) Improvement in personal health & hygiene – 65%.

Case Study: T. Saithiyavani is part of the oppressed caste of Dalits. Her husband is an agricultural labourer, who finds work 15 days out of the month. She, herself, does shoe-stitching work through work orders from an agent who sends the product to a local shoe company. Since she joined SHG in December 2000, the loans have allowed her to build two houses, one for her husband and herself, and another for her grown son. She has also received Entrepreneurial Development Program (EDP) training and was introduced to the Sakthi business scheme through a project staff. Motivated by the training, she took a loan of Rs.10,000 and became a Sakthi Dealer. The loan has been repaid regularly. Being part of the SHG has empowered her to participate in political activities. The efforts of women in her community prevented the sale of illicit alcohol in the village. Saithiyavani has also contested in the PRI election and joined the Human Rights Protection Committee in the area. With low-interest loans now accessible through her self-help group, she hopes that someday she can start her own shoe-upper stitch unit, with direct work orders from shoe companies.

Goals 4-6: Reduce child mortality/Improve maternal health/Combat HIV/Aids: (i) In all our rural projects, awareness of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases is an integral part of our work; (ii) The Urban Development Initiatives, especially, has been an area where DPG has focused especially on child care and maternal health, by promoting low-cost day-care services for small children and increased health awareness; (iii) Expecting mothers are also able to afford better quality medical services through loans from the self-help groups. These loans are given priority by all the groups; (iv) Support has been given to Christine Matthews Health & Development Society, an outreach clinic in and around Seduvalai area, providing much-needed access to basic health services.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability: During 2004 to 200707, DPG worked on and partially completed projects to provide useable water for 88 villages in Karnataka. The projects focus on reducing the impact of droughts on the land and the inhabitants; (ii) DPG ensures that the villages take ownership of their projects by contributing a portion of the costs, usually in the form of labour. In addition, the villagers form committee to maintain the facilities once they have been built.

Goal 8: Develop global partnership for community: (i) DPG has established partnerships within the country as well as internationally; (ii) In addition, we have received development cooperation from the following agencies: (a) Church Development Service (EED), Germany; (b) Inter-Church Organizations for Development cooperation (ICCO), the Netherlands, (c) Diakonie Emergency Aid (DEA), Germany; (d) Christian Aid, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (e) Self Development of People (SDOP), United States of America; (f) Association of Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU), Bangkok: Thailand; (g) American Indian Foundation, Delhi; (h) Times Foundation, Delhi; (i) Government of Karnataka.

Within India, we have collaborated with more than 20 NGOs. We provided 13 NGOs finance, planning and monitoring support. Subsequent to the Tsunami, we collaborated with local governments to acquire land for permanent shelters.

III. Conclusion

DPG is a NGO that has been extremely active in all areas related to the eradication of poverty and improvement of lives. We are an active member of CONGO, and a contact with a global network of foundations. We hope to continue our network with UN and to continually improve our global contacts.

4. Sulabh International

(Special; 1996)

Part 1. Introduction: A brief introductory statement

1. **The aims and purpose of the organisation are as follows:**

- Liberate and rehabilitate scavengers
- Upgrade the social standing of scavengers
- Promote indigenous technologies to improve sanitation and environment
- Harness non-conventional energy sources from human waste and save fuel and forests.
- Educate people not to defecate in the open and prevent environmental pollution.
- Motivate people to get bucket privies converted into Sulabh toilets.
- Build community toilets with bathing, washing and urinal facilities on pay-and-use basis at public places.
- Create new jobs by training change-agents for integrated rural development.
- Promote awareness through mass communication.

2. **Any change that may have significant impact on the organisation**

There is no change in the constitution or by-laws of the organisation. However, the organisation has extended its activities for physical implementation of sanitation facilities – Sulabh public toilet

complexes – in Afghanistan in collaboration with Kabul Municipality, Kabul, Afghanistan. Furthermore, two programmes on capacity building for sustainable sanitation technologies were successfully completed in collaboration with the United Nations Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya during the reporting period.

Part II – Contribution of the organisation to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

(a) Conference on Women, Water and Sanitation and in the exhibition, at the special event, organized by United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), at Jeju, Republic of Korea, 28-30 March 2004.

(b) United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development 12th session held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 14-30 April 2004.

(c) The World Health Organization Regional Committee Meeting at Dhaka, Bangladesh was held from 22-25 August 2006: At the invitation from WHO, Dr. Pathak participated in and presented his views on improvement of sanitation.

(d) Business Partnership for Sustainable Urbanization, First Stakeholder's Meeting organized by United Nations Habitat, Nairobi, from 13-20 April 2007, presented a paper and participated in the Exhibition.

ii) Other meetings:

Sulabh's senior executives of the organization attended the following international conferences/meetings and presented views on improvement of sanitation, environment, and social developments, based on their working experiences. They distributed and presented papers, literature on sanitization technologies and participated in the exhibition through displaying different panels and models related to sanitization: (a) Paper on "City Slums Upgradation with Special Reference to Some Aspects of Slum Upgradation in Delhi and the Role of Sulabh", at the World Urban Forum, held at Barcelona, Spain, from 13-17 September 2004; (b) Paper on "Toilet – A Tool of Social Change" at the World Toilet Summit, Beijing, China, held from 17-19 November 2004; (c) Paper on 'Toilets for All-Meeting the Millennium Development Goal on Sanitation' at World Toilet Summit – 2005, organized by British Toilet Association at Belfast, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland held from 26-29 September 2005; (d) Participated and presented a paper on Sustainable Sanitation Technologies in the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-II), Islamabad, Pakistan held from 20-21 September 2006; (e) Organized World Toilet Summit – 2007, New Delhi, during 31 October – 3 November 2007. There were three papers presented by Sulabh officials at the conference: (i) Technical aspect of safe reuse of human wastes; (ii) Social and environmental aspects of sanitation and (iii) Gender aspect of sanitation.

iii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and / or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters:

During the reporting period, the organization: (a) successfully completed two training-cum-capacity building programmes for African countries in collaboration with United Nations Habitat. A total of 47 officials/entrepreneurs from 14 African countries (namely Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Zambia, United Republic of Tanzania, Côte d' Ivoire, Mali and Rwanda) were provided practical training on sanitation technology in the years 2005 and 2006; (b) Completed a project on technical evaluation of the Vacutug Machine for desludging of faecal matter from toilet pits, for socio-economic and environmental upgrade of slum settlements; the Vacutug Machine has been developed by the United Nations Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya; (c) The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in its Annual Report of 2006 highlighted the technology of Sulabh two pit pour flush compost toilets and its implementation by the organisation for improvements of sanitation and its importance for developing countries.

In 2005 SISSO published a book on "Social Marketing of Sanitation" in collaboration with United Nations Habitat, New Delhi, India.

iv) Initiatives undertaken by the organisation in support of internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The following activities cover Goal 7 of the MDGs: Throughout the reporting period, the organization has been deeply involved in implementation of various technologies to improve sanitation through its Branch Offices in 26 States and 3 Union Territories in India. It has been implementing the technology of Sulabh two-pit toilet for safe disposal of individual household waste, public toilets for public places and in slum settlements, generation and utilization of biogas from human waste from public toilets to provide energy to slum dwellers; wastewater treatment through duckweed and economic return through pisciculture associated with the system. Further, it has been implementing a major programme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers – those who clean and carry human wastes from bucket privy manually – through providing suitable vocational trainings on market oriented trades, to make them able to be self-employed and lead their lives with dignity.

In Kabul, Afghanistan, at the request of Municipality of Kabul, funded by the Government of India, Sulabh implemented five public toilets on 'pay and use' basis, with one biogas plant attached to each. The concept of pay and use toilet is new for the country. It has helped to improve sanitation for local people, who used to defecate in the open due to unavailability of such facility at affordable cost. Produced biogas is now being used for cooking, lighting and electricity generation.

The organization took active part in World Toilet Summits, organized in alternate years as noted in Part II (ii) above. In October-November 2007 Sulabh organized the World Toilet Summit held in Delhi, India where participants from more than 45 countries participated and discussed various issues relating to improvement of sanitation.

5. War Veterans Committee

(Special; 2004)

Part I. Introduction

An NGO - War Veterans Committee (WVC) is registered with the Federal Registration Service of the Russian Federation, and since July 2004 has been in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, which is an official recognition of the legitimacy of its relations with this international organization. The Committee comprises about 50 international and regional veterans' organizations from post-Soviet countries. The Committee helps and upholds the rights of those who took part in hostilities, fulfilling their military duty, and those who suffered from hostilities, local conflicts and acts of terror as well as their families. At a conservative estimate, there are about 3 million such people in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

In 2005-2007 the Committee rendered assistance to war veterans, participants of local conflicts and victims of terrorism worth several million dollars, which made it possible to provide thousands people with prosthetics, wheelchairs, medical rehabilitation treatment and medications. By mobilizing the funds of sponsors the Committee extended financial aid to victims of local conflicts in Dagestan, Ossetia, Ingushetia, Transdniestria, Tajikistan, Chechnya and Afghanistan.

The Committee encouraged society to pay more attention to these issues, constantly pushing governments, legislative bodies and local authorities towards this, and maintained a high level of concern about these issues in society. The Committee remained very sensitive to various aspects of humanitarian activities including some specific as searching for those reported missing in action during the Afghanistan war as well as in burying servicemen in their native countries. During 2004-2007 the WVC sent several search expeditions: 20 July-10 August 2005 and 1-14 September 2005, 9th search expedition; 15-30 July 2006 and 15 October-7 November 2006, 10th expedition. In general during late 90s - 2007 the Committee jointly with the governments of a number of states has freed from captivity and returned home 23 people. In the November 2006 the Committee's 10th search expedition found, prepared and brought home another former Soviet prisoner of war Yury Stepanov with his Afghan family. The Committee helped him to find a home and settle down in Bashkortostan (Russian Federation).

In 2005-2007 the NGO expanded areas of activities affiliating new member veteran's organizations from the CIS countries, regions of the Russian Federation and Bulgaria. It established contacts and strengthened relations with veterans' organizations from other countries, namely the United States of America.

PART II Contribution of the WVC to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. **Economic and Social Council substantive session of 2007, Geneva, 2-27 July 2007:** The delegation of the War Veterans Committee attended the session as observers lobbying for the inclusion of veteran's organization theme into agenda. **On 19 July 2007** the WVC delegation was received by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Director of the United Nations Office in Geneva S.Ordzhonikidze who approved our drive in this direction as an acknowledgement of the reciprocal relationship that exists between us and the United Nations based on shared aims and objectives in the field of humanitarian affairs.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field/or at Headquarters.

1. On 6 December 2007 the delegation of WVC headed by Ruslan Aushev, its President, had a meeting at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Headquarters in Geneva with Ms. Alyona Neshperova, Head of the Eastern European office. During the meeting some aspects of a possible cooperation of the two organizations had been outlined and later specified and developed with the ILO office in Moscow.

2. The Committee co-operated in humanitarian field with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and we established good working relations with regional delegation of this organization in Moscow. **On 25 October 2007** the Head of the ICRC delegation in Moscow Mr. Francois Bellon handed over to us the list of missing and displaced persons representing all the information available at their disposal regarding the fates of participants of operations in Afghanistan.

3. **On 19 July 2007** the delegation of WVC had a meeting with Chief executive of the Office of the General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Mr. Bill Kean. During the meeting the state and prospects of future relations between two organizations were discussed.

4. **On 25 July 2007** The Committee joined as full member The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) that so far in many stances facilitated our endeavors to participate in United Nations debates and decision-making. We tried to be active at the major United Nations centers where CONGO is present - New York and Geneva.

- **On 20 July 2007** we met then President of CONGO Mrs. Renate Bloem and familiarized her with our NGO and its goals and shortly after we joined full membership in CONGO. Since then we moved quite soundly in building up our relationship with international NGO community and United Nations bodies in Geneva stressing our adherence to United Nations principles and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- **On 5-7 December 2007** we participated in the 23rd General Assembly of CONGO (CONGO GA) and joined the General Debate that included discussions relating to reform efforts of the United Nations and NGOs and various thematic dialogues - on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - and CONGO at 60, with a focus on the role and future of CONGO. As newcomer we presented our short introductory address to the CONGO GA that was met with appreciation and consent.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st Century.

Medico-social direction

Within 4 year period the Committee actively carried out:

- interconnection and work with public organizations, governments of the states, bodies and establishments of public health services and social security system of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Estonia on rendering medico-social help to veterans of wars and local conflicts;
- working out and realization of programs and the international projects of a medico-social orientation (presented to the governments of aforementioned states, co-coordinated with 7 states, transferred to 67 public organizations, 146 establishments and presented to Economic and Social Council, WHO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- direct work with participants of war, their members of families, invalids, victims of terrorism with a view of meeting their requirements for medical consultations, hospitalization, rendering therapeutic help, prosthetics, rehabilitation, procurement with invalid carriages and wheelchairs, rehabilitation means, etc;

During 2004 - 2007 the Committee developed and realized:

1. The complex program of rehabilitation of veterans of wars, invalids, members of their families in following states: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

- For 4 years the medico-social help was rendered to 97,142 veterans of wars, members of families and parents of the victims who participated in military operations in Afghanistan, Angola, Viet Nam, Egypt, the Korean peninsula, the Syrian Arab Republic, Mozambique, including 94,465 persons provided with medicines, 1,624 gravely ill patients had received treatment in the specialized centers, scientific research institutes and clinics of Moscow, 936 invalids received prostheses, 1,365 invalids - were provided with invalid carriages, wheelchairs and rehabilitation devices, 1,530 persons are provided by sanatorium and rehabilitation treatment.

- For 4 years the Committee rendered help to 120 establishments and public organizations, that included:
- creation of branches of medico-psychological, social and professional rehabilitation in hospitals for veterans of wars;
- building of rehabilitation centers in the regions of aforementioned states, creation of the prosthetics centers;
- carrying out of medico-social and sociological monitoring of families of disabled and chronically ill patients;

2. In 2006 the Committee developed the program "National features of life quality of war veterans and struggle against poverty". The program is carried out in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

3. In 2007 the humanitarian program of the medico-social help to families of war veterans and the disabled was developed. Its implementation began in the Russian Federation (the Moscow area, Dagestan, Tatarstan).

4. Since 2005 the program "Northern Caucasus-XXI century" was developed and realized. Financing of programs was carried out by means of the following funds and sources: off-budget sources of veteran organizations - 67,4 %, resources of charitable organizations and grants - 14,2 %, donations of public organizations and citizens - 6,0 %, the means allocated through budgets of governments of the CIS member-states-12,4 %. The Committee organized and convened 8 international conferences, 4 seminars on medico-social problems, 2 international competitions on the best results of war veteran's rehabilitation establishments in which 186 establishments from 15 states participated.